MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli Negotiations -- The Lebanese Government has learned from the U.S. envoy that Israel has expressed readiness in principle to start negotiations with Lebanon "shortly, perhaps before Christmas," Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced in remarks reported by Beirut radio. However, he admitted that he did not know the specific date or venue for the start of the talks. Earlier, President Amin al-Jumayyil reviewed the Lebanese working paper for the negotiations in consultation with a number of former prime ministers, the radio noted.

Khaldah in Lebanon and Qiryat Shemona in Israel are the "preferred venues" for the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. According to THE POST, Israel's Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche is likely to be Prime Minister Menahem Begin's choice to head the Israeli delegation.

Sharon on Lebanon Agreement -- The political arrangement with Lebanon will provide for: abolition of the state of war, open borders and permanent Israeli representation in Beirut until a peace treaty is signed, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Israel will have three early-warning stations, he revealed, and only Lebanese military forces will be permitted in the 45-km border zone. He stressed that the withdrawal of forces will begin only when IDF soldiers captured by the Syrians and Palestinians are returned. The defense minister also criticized the United States for attempting to slow the pace of the negotiations in order to tie both the talks and Israel to President Ronald Reagan's peace plan.

According to IDF radio, Sharon also told the committee that there is a good chance that the Syrians will agree to carry out the first stage of the withdrawal of foreign forces, which will include the evacuation of all the "terrorists" from Lebanon.

Syrian Withdrawal -- Lebanese sources cited by the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS claimed that in his recent message to President al-Jumayyil, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad adopted this new stand after receiving assurances from Al-Jumayyil that Lebanon will not conclude a unilateral peace treaty with Israel and will not accede to Israel's desire to control security in southern Lebanon, the sources said.

Military Situation -- Two IDF officers were killed and three others were wounded when their jeep hit a mine on a dirt road near Kamid al-Lawz in the Al-Biqa' Valley, Jerusalem radio reported. Noting that the IDF is investigating whether the mine was freshly planted, the radio said the "terrorists" rather than the Syrians were probably responsible for the incident, which was intended to heat up the eastern sector and thwart the imminent agreement on troop withdrawals.

West Bank

"Judaea and Samaria" are nearing a "point of no return," in which no plan for the area outside the framework of the autonomy plan will be feasible, Defense Minister Sharon told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in remarks reported by IDF radio. He revealed that 14 more Nahal outposts will shortly be established in the area.

PLO

'Arafat Envoy in Algiers, Moscow Visit -- After meeting with the Algerian foreign minister, the PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's personal envoy to

Algeria, Nabil Sha'th, said the PLO leadership decided to hold the forthcoming Palestine National Council session in Algeria because of the "distinguished strategic relations between militant Algeria and the Palestinian Revolution," Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. According to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, Sha'th was carrying an "important" letter from 'Arafat to the Algerian leaders. Meanwhile, Palestinian sources in Damascus stated that 'Arafat will visit the Soviet Union in January 1983, KUNA reported.

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH Commentary -- Without mentioning Syria by name, a FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH editorial reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said those who grant themselves the right to issue a statement on behalf of five Palestinian organizations, "a statement which was in turn denied by those organizations," will not hesitate to issue statements containing more "lies and impudence." Deploring Arab regimes which criticize the United States vociferously while concurrently trying to build bridges with Washington, the PLO paper said the Palestinians had hoped that Arab rulers "very close" to the Palestinian-Israeli war would have been able to overcome their "unsound circumstances" and enter the battle, despite the military risks. Unfortunately, they did not enter the fight and the Beirut battle was fought "by the Palestinians and the Lebanese alone," the paper contended. FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH also deplored "spectator regimes" which are robbing PLO military forces of their freedom of movement and are intercepting and confiscating arms supplies to the fedayeen in an attempt to contain the Palestinian Revolution.

Egypt

The PRC delegation led by State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang met with an Egyptian delegation led by President Husni Mubarak for talks which lasted 3 and 1/2 hours, MENA reported. During the talks the two leaders agreed to extend their 1976 trade and payment agreement to December 1983, another MENA report noted. Egyptian Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah revealed that the PRC has sent Egypt spare parts for F-6 military aircraft and will send parts for the F-7, which will be assembled in Egypt; the F-6 and F-7 are similar to the MiG-19 and MiG-21 respectively, MENA noted. "Official" talks on bilateral relations are scheduled to begin on 22 December at ministerial level, another MENA report stated.

Iran-Iraq War

Reaction to Dezful Attack -- Following a meeting with Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, President 'Ali Khamene'i told IRNA that Iraq's continuous air and rocket attacks against Iranian civilians have disproved Baghdad's alleged concern for a peaceful settlement to the Iran-Iraq war. The president called the rocket attack against Dezful "a barefaced outcry for war" that could only provide Iran with additional incentive to continue the conflict, IRNA added. He claimed that Iranian forces will soon be capable of stopping the Iraqis from using long-range weapons against Iran, Tehran radio reported. Iranian Ground Forces Commander Col 'Ali Sayyad-Shirazi asserted in an ETTELA'AT interview cited by IRNA that Iraq would soon receive an answer for its attack on Dezful.

Tariq 'Aziz Comments -- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz claimed that his country has "billions of dollars" with which to purchase arms and recently signed a contract with a French company to buy sophisticated weapons, INA reported citing an interview with the Paris daily LE FIGARO. 'Aziz asserted that Iraq would continue its diplomatic efforts to end the war, but declared that the fighting cannot be ended unilaterally.

Iran

Government forces cleared 24 villages in western Iran of "counterrevolutionaries" on 19 December, according to Tehran radio. Another Tehran report claimed that the "overwhelming majority" of members of Komeleh and of the Union of Communist Fighters outside Kordestab were arrested during recent operations in Tehran, Tabriz, Ahvaz, Esfahan and northern Iran.

DAILY REPORT

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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Mujahidin Leader Views Peace Talks, U.S. Policy C 1
[Jidda AL-MADINAH 20 Dec]
Defense Ministry Director General Defects [Karachi] C 1
Former KHAD Official on Political Prisoners [Karachi] C 2
Briefs: Petroleum Products From USSR; C 2
DYOA Official to USSR: Agreement
With Bulgaria

PAKISTAN

Foreign Secretary Views Coming Talks With India F 1
Zia's U.S. Visit Called 'Great Success' F 2
[DAWN 16 Dec]
Private Sector Urged To Join Defense Production F 4
[THE MUSLIM 29 Nov]
President Holds Ottawa Press Conference [cross-reference] F 5

IRAN

Joint Staff on Iraqi Firing of Chemical Shells I 1
President: Iran Will Stop Iraqi Missile Attacks I 1
Ground Forces Commander Reacts to Dezful Attack I 2
Minigroup Members Arrested, Equipment Impounded I 2
Other Operations Against 'Counterrevolutionaries' I 3
Headquarters Implementing Imam's Decree Meet I 4
Clandestine Radio on MKO Operations in Rasht I 4
[Free Voice of Iran]
Afghan Muslim 'Revolutionaries' Attack in Herat I 5
Organization Condemns Arrests in Saudi Arabia I 5

MUJAHIDIN LEADER VIEWS PEACE TALKS, U.S. POLICY

GF211958 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 20 Dec 82 p 13

[Interview with Borhanaddin Rabbani, chairman of the Islamic Union of the Afghan Mujahidin and its Military Committee, by AL-MADINAH correspondent 'Abd ar-Rashid Indijani -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The Russians are talking about a peaceful settlement of the [Afghan] issue. What is your opinion regarding such a settlement?

[Answer] We see signs that the Soviet Union is striving to resolve this problem peacefully or to find a way out of this problem and bring about a formula of settlement that will allow it to maintain its pride and self-deception. We have not objection, but on condition that our rights are first of all guaranteed.

[Question] What have the peace talks, which Pakistan participated in, accomplished?

[Answer] What was reached in Geneva is not worth mentioning. We believe that any meeting which does not include all the concerned parties, the Soviet Union and the Afghan resistance, cannot achieve success.

[Question] U.S. President Reagan has allowed the selling of grain to the Soviet Union and has lifted the embargo imposed on the USSR because of its intervention in Afghanistan. Does this mean a slacking up on the U.S. stance?

[Answer] Our experience with the United States has been very bad and successive U.S. presidents have adopted dramatic, vague and insincere stands. What is really surprising is that at a time when a number of the congressmen have called for the U.S. Administration to support the Afghan mujahidin, we find that President Ronald Reagan has lifted the grain embargo on the Soviet Union. Regrettably, the U.S. stands, in general, are not new.

[Question] There are widespread reports that there are differences among the commands of the Afghan resistance. What is the nature of these differences?

[Answer] No, thank God, there are no differences. The differences were in the resistance leaders' views, but now there are no such differences.

DEFENSE MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL DEFECTS

BK221022 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Director General in the Afghan Defense Ministry (Brigadier Engineer Abdul Mannan) has defected and crossed over into Pakistan. He said in a radio interview that 99.9 percent of the people of Afghanistan were behind the Afghan mujahidin. Even those in the Karmal forces and other government departments have full sympathy for the cause of the mujahidin. The Afghan official said the Afghan Army, which had been raised to 180,000 after the coup during the Taraki regime, had now been depleted and reduced to 20,000 only as most of the soldiers have either deserted or joined the mujahidin or have been killed in the war. He said the Soviet troops have now realized that they were fighting an endless war in Afghanistan as the Afghans were determined to resist the occupation force.

FORMER KHAD OFFICIAL ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

BK220018 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, 30,000 political prisoners are imprisoned in 13 Kabul jails. Sources, quoting the superintendent of the central jail and those in charge of the investigation division of the Karmal administration's secret service KHAD, said that 13 jails are filled with people opposing the Karmal administration. They said 85 special teams of Soviet and Karmal administration officials have been appointed to investigate the prisoners.

A senior official of the Karmal administration's secret service KHAD, (Lt Gen Ghulam Siddiqui Miraki), who recently defected and crossed over into Pakistan, said in an interview that the Karmal administration does not enjoy the people's support, because it was established with the help of a foreign power. He said the Karmal administration does not exist in the real sense, because thousands of its military personnel have joined the mujahidin. However, there are a small number of military personnel present in Kabul who have remained attached to the Karmal administration by force. He said the economy of Afghanistan has been ruined because the military operations have badly affected agriculture and trade.

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM USSR -- Kabul, Dec 21, BAKHTAR -- A contract for the purchase of 450,000 tons of petroleum products for the year 1983 was signed here today between the Department of Petroleum and Sugar of the DRA and the Sayoznetteexport company of the Soviet Union. The amount envisaged in this contract is 138.88 percent more than the last year's contract which will be delivered through the three ports. This amount will suffice the needs all over the country during the coming year. It is reported that the Soviet Union has reduced its petroleum prices for Afghanistan by four percent in comparison with the previous year. The Soviet side will deliver 7,300 tons of deisel and 5,000 tons of petrol from the above mentioned quantity under the conditions of consumers loans to the DRA. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0441 GMT 22 Dec 82 LD]

DYOA OFFICIAL TO USSR -- Kabul, Dec 15, BAKHTAR -- Surhan Gheyabi, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth's Organisation of Afghanistan, left Kabul for USSR. He will participate at the celebrations of 60th anniversary of establishment of the USSR at the invitation of the Central Committee of Leninist Komsomol Organisation of the USSR. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0416 GMT 16 Dec 82 LD]

AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA -- Kabul, Dec 15, BAKHTAR -- An agreement of three million Bulgarian leva credit for the establishment of small plants for processing of agricultural products in Afghanistan has been signed between the Afghan delegation headed by Abdol Qayum Nurzai, member of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Peasants Cooperatives of the DRA, and Bulgaria recently. Abdol Qayum Nurzai, who had gone to Bulgaria at the invitation of the Peasants Cooperatives of the People's Republic of Bulgaria returned home today. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 16 Dec 82 LD]

FOREIGN SECRETARY VIEWS COMING TALKS WITH INDIA

BK211716 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik, leading a three-member delegation, will leave for New Delhi tomorrow to hold talks with his Indian counterpart. The visit is in pursuance of the joint press statement issued following the meeting between President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi last month. The foreign secretary told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that it is hoped that during talks on 23 and 24 December they will reach a mutually agreed text for setting up a joint commission. He said both sides expect to exchange views on the Pakistani draft of a nonaggression pact and India's draft of a treaty of friendship, peace and cooperation. He said it will be our endeavor to clarify our position to India and understand India's viewpoint so we can reach a mutually agreed settlement to remove apprehensions of both countries and create an atmosphere of trust and confidence for the promotion of good neighborly and friendly relations.

The foreign secretary said the president's talks with the Indian prime minister on the 1st of last month had greatly helped to further improve bilateral relations between two neighboring countries and promote and consolidate mutual understanding and cooperation. Their talks yielded positive results which will help in making further progress in bilateral matters.

Answering a question, the foreign secretary said we have already told India that their draft of the treaty of peace and friendship contains certain elements which create many difficulties for Pakistan. That is why in the coming talks we will give particularly greater attention to matters on which there are marked differences in the stands and views of the two countries.

The foreign secretary said as far as bilateral matters are concerned, whether in connection with disputes or differences of opinion, Pakistan's stand is that any agreement between two sovereign and independent nations should not in any way affect their obligations and responsibilities under the UN Charter. He said the signing of the nonaggression pact between India and Pakistan would not in any way affect existing obligations under the Simla agreement with regard to Jammu and Kashmir.

Answering another question, the foreign secretary said that the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan will head the proposed joint commission. Important sectors that are included in the commission by the two sides include economy, trade, health, telecommunications and tourism. The joint commission will have authority to appoint subcommissions for various sectors. The commission will meet once a year, alternately, in Islamabad and New Delhi.

The foreign secretary said both sides will take advantage of this occasion to review matters pending settlement in connection with the agreement reached during the meeting of the counsellors on detainees of each country in another country. There are 300-400 detainees of each country in another country.

When asked to comment on THE WASHINGTON POST's report that India has prepared a preemptive strike plan against Pakistan's nuclear installations, Niaz A. Naik said that the Indian foreign secretary has already issued a statement categorically refuting this report. However, he said, no country remains unconcerned about the security of its important installations.

The foreign secretary said that after talks in New Delhi they would be paying a day's visit to Bombay where they propose to establish a consulate general.

ZIA'S U.S. VISIT CALLED 'GREAT SUCCESS'

GF201302 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Montreal, Dec 15: At the end of President Ziaul Haq's busy and crowded programme of visit to the United States, sources close to the leading members of his entrouage are showing robust enthusiasm over the end-results of his important diplomatic endeavour, as they confidently take a long-term measure of the new relationship with America.

According to these sources, the immediate aims of Pakistani moves have already been ahcieved:

A) The Reagan administration has been able to absorb and agree with most of the Pakistani ideas on points of bilateral, regional and international issues. This exercise has further reinforces USA's firm intention to "to prove itself a reliable and consistent partner". As a result, there is now an identity, or a similarity, of approach to such problems as in Afghanistan, Iran, the Middle East and India.

B) What eventually turned out to be a technical hitch over the delivery of the first batch of F-16's is over.

C) The American media, in spite of its characteristically provocative stance, has had by now ample opportunities of being exposed to the basic concepts and philosophy, as well as the determinant realities, of Pakistani policies and the operational strategy regarding various internal and external problems. It can no longer plead any kind of misinformation or lack of well-documented data. The same goes for the numerous private institutions which influence decision-making or the planning and execution of policies in their visible or invisible ways. The president spent much of his time on them.

The approach adopted by the president's entourage in regard to the third point (C above) was practical and simple. We could not hope to change the reality of the powerful lobbies (such as Jewish, Indian etc.) which are traditionally not very sympathetic to us. But these could be indirectly influenced by a direct projection of our points of view to them.

Then there ar quite a number of impartial and objective Americans who are likely to sympathise with our views if they are properly approached and briefed. Thousands of Pakistanis (many of them American citizens now) living in the U.S. could be crucial in this drive. Keeping this in view, the president has attended meetings of Pakistani associations or their groups wherever he could. The response has been encouraging and the leader members of the entourage are looking forward to the day we would have our own bases of influence in this great country.

After the president's successful meetings with the Senate and House committees, the U.S. Administration has committed itself to carry through the five-year aid and military-sales package. Even if, due to some internal political developments, the Congress blocks appropriation in the current fiscal year, the administration has given firm assurances that it will take requisite measures, which it is entitled to take under the Constitution, to keep the programme going and unaffected by such temporary setbacks on the Capitol Hill. Agreements on the implementation of the programme in 1982 fiscal year have already been signed in Washington. Some accords relating to 1983 fiscal year have also been signed, while others are going through the normal process of active preparation.

The following have been the other areas of achievements, according to these sources:

1. The bogey of reservations on account of the form of the government-in-charge at Islamabad has been laid for ever. This has made no difference to President Reagan, the administration or other relevant groups.

2. There is agreement and identity of views among American decision-makers that the UN-sponsored three-way talks for the political resolution of the Afganistan issue is the best option available now.

3. Americans have been amply reassured that the president's talks with the new secretary-general of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr Yuriy Andropov, has not affected out new partnership with America. There are no misgivings on this score now.

4. There is greater understanding in Washington now that Pakistan's view that the only hope of progress for a solution of the Middle East problem lies in a fusion and balancing of the Arab consensus at Fes and the Reagan plan.

5. Last but not the least, there is enthusiastic and effusive appreciation of the performance of Pakistan's economy under the policies framed by the present leadership in Islamabad. Pakistan is once again being cited as a model for other Third World countries.

According to sources in close touch with the Pakistan-American talks, President Ziaul Haq's visit which concluded on Tuesday, has been a great success and the objectives set for the visit have been fully achieved.

Firstly, the American Administration has been apprised of Pakistan's point of view on regional and global issues and the administration largely agrees with the Pakistan's perceptions.

Secondly, certain potentially controversial issues have been sorted out to mutual satisfaction, including some technical questions about the F-16.

Thirdly the large Pakistani community, which is influential and patriotic, has been acquainted with Pakistan's point of view on various issues and the progress made by the country in different fields.

Islamabad has been further assured that U.S. relations with India will not be permitted to impinge on Pakistan-U.S. relations. United States will never pressurise Pakistan out of consideration for India.

The sources have underlined the fact that during President Ziaul Haq's meetings with President Reagan or other members of administration or congressmen in the Senate and House Foreign Affairs Committees, no questions were raised about the internal affairs of Pakistan and no reference was made to the form of government. On the contrary, deep satisfaction was expressed about the stability achieved by Pakistan in a turbulent region and the economic progress made by Pakistan over last five years was warmly lauded.

The president's convincing projection of Pakistan's position on nuclear non-proliferation, the peaceful nature of her own nuclear programme, and Islamabad's all-out effort to curb the drug traffic appears to have made an impact on congressmen and the news media. This is illustrated by the fact that neither of the issues figured in the president's last public appearance at the World Affairs Council luncheon, whereas in the early days of the visit they dominated his meetings with the representatives of the news media.

President Ziaul Haq's eloquent presentation of Islam including its economic and judicial systems, also evoked a favourable reaction. In fact, the organizers of the functions held in his honour showed deep deference to Islamic sensitivities and no alcoholic drinks were served.

Sources in the Pakistan delegation said that the president was particularly satisfied with the meetings he had with Pakistani nationals in the course of his tour. The president answered a number of questions in order to remove their misgivings. An overwhelming majority of Pakistanis endorsed his policies and programmes.

In a message radioed from his special plane on his departure for Montreal, President Zia adequately summed up his U.S. visit. He said that this exchange of views with President Reagan had underlined "the convergence of their perceptions" on a number of issues of mutual interest.

PRIVATE SECTOR URGED TO JOIN DEFENSE PRODUCTION

GF211010 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Nov 82 pp 1, 8

["Private Sector's Induction in Defense Production Urged" by Azhar Masood]

[Text] Wah Cantt, Nov. 28: The chairman joint chiefs of staff committee, Gen. Iqbal Khan, has urged the private sector to participate in the nation's defence production industry saying, "The presence of private sector on the national defence industry would enable the country to meet the ever-increasing demands, otherwise the defence industry and technology would continue to lag behind".

Inaugurating a three-day seminar on defence technology here this evening, Gen. Iqbal Khan urged the planners of the defence industry to identify those areas where the investment from the private sector was needed. "The entrepreneurs should also be impressed upon to incorporate the defence needs in their overall plan", he added.

The seminar is being jointly organised by the Pakistan Ordance Factories Board [POF] and the Institute of Engineers of Pakistan.

Gen. Iqbal Khan said the establishment of few defence industries in isolation could not possibly meet the requirements of the armed forces. "Although we have a number of commercial industries in the private sector, yet not many defence-oriented industries have been established in this sector", he further commented.

Gen. Iqbal Khan stated that the days of cheap and easily accessible technology from abroad are over, particularly in the case of defence technology which is not only very expensive and difficult to acquire but also has numerous political constraints.

A former president of British Ordance Board and a former NATO expert on anti-tank missiles, Maj. Gen. (retd) Hamilton Jones was the second speaker. He read a paper, "European and U.S. Ammunition Facilties, Attack of Armour, Tungsten Long Rod Penetrator Technology. Maj. Gen Jones was of the view that heavy tanks were still the answer to the development of anti-tanks systems. He also enlightened the audience on the research on new anti-missiles techniques. Later during the tea session Maj Gen Jones told this correspondent"Exocets pose no more threats to the grey fleets -- we have developed a system to destroy low-cruising missiles."

During the second session which was chaired by the chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Munir Ahmad Khan, papers were read by Mr Saleem, head of the Suparco [expansion unknown], on "Weapon Systems"; by NATO's expert on small arms, Wolfgang Dieter Katzmaier, on "NATO Standardised Weapons and Caseless Weapon System"; by the managing director of POF, Gadwal M. N. Gill, on "Ballistics for Small Arms Ammunition"; and by Mr Bashiruddin on "Guidelines for Writing Quality Assurance Manual."

Concluding the second session, Munir Ahmad Khan said science has still not been inducted into Pakistan as a part of its culture. He said the defence was a dynamic subject. It need proper attention and a country like Pakistan can merely depend on its indigenous resources to meet its defence requirements.

The chairman of the PAEC [Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission] stated that it was very difficult for Pakistan to acquire modern and high technology. "The transfer of technology having all kinds of strings is still inaccessible", he added. Giving the examples of Korea and India and referring to Pakistan's geopolitical position, Mr. Munir said "high technology was the only solution and in my personal opinion we should mainly rely and make efforts to develop the best laser system for the different defence needs."

Earlier in his key-note address the POF Board chairman, Maj. Gen. Talat Masood, spoke of the success of the first seminar on defence technology held last year. He also dwelt at length on the importance and significance of the seminars on defence technologies.

PRESIDENT HOLDS OTTAWA PRESS CONFERENCE

For Karachi reportage on a press conference President Mohammad Ziaul Haq held in Ottawa on 17 December in the course of his official visit, see the Canada section of the 20 December Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

JOINT STAFF ON IRAQI FIRING OF CHEMICAL SHELLS

LD211824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,159 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued yesterday between the combatants of Islam and the Saddamist mercenaries on the country's western front, and these were more intense in the Muslim Ibn 'Aqil operation zones.

According to reports the Iraqi forces suffered the destruction of two command vehicles, one tank and a number of dead or wounded on the Bakhtarian border fronts. On the Marivan front the heavy artillery fire of the ground forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran pounded the enemy's fortifications and positions in the (Kani Eskan) area and prevented its movements and activities, killing a number of the Saddamist mercenaries.

At 1945 on 19 December the criminal Saddamist mercenaries, contrary to international laws and standards, fired chemical shells of a nausea-creating type at one of the Naft-e Shahr regions.

On the southern fronts the powerful combatants of Islam continued to consolidate their defense positions and simultaneous with consolidating and guarding their defense positions and areas they returned the Saddamist forces' fire. Sporadic exchanges of fire are continuing in these regions.

On the Abadan front the heroes of the gendarmerie opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, silencing the fire of the Saddamist forces, preventing their traffice on the Al-Faw-Basra road, destroying five slit trenches and foxholes of the Iraqi forces and killing or wounding a number of them.

On 19 December several Iraqi mercenaries' patrol groups tried to penetrate our combatants' positions on one of the southern fronts; but the combatants of Islam, who are ready to sacrifice their lives, bravely and with the utmost vigilance foiled their movements and killed four of the enemy servicemen, forcing the rest to flee.

Yesterday a number of intruding aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Army intended to violate the airspace of several western and southern regions of the country; however they were prevented from penetrating and were forced to flee by the tactical measures of the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the air defense units' fire.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

PRESIDENT: IRAN WILL STOP IRAQI MISSILE ATTACKS

LD211550 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Excerpts] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i was received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and reported on different current affairs of the country, including domestic and foreign policies and the Zionist enemy's missile attack on Dezful. At the end of the meeting Khamene'i talked to our correspondent about the issues raised at his meeting with the imam. We will now listen to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] The inept enemy, after its repeated defeats by the combatants of Islam on war fronts, attacked Dezful with missiles 2 days ago and killed a number of defenseless citizens. As head of the Supreme Defense Council would you please give us your view of this incident?

[Khamene'i] We have something to say to our own people and something else to say to those responsible for this crime and supporters of [word indistinct]. To our own people we bring the good tidings that their steadfastness on the war fronts has caused the inept and weak enemy to satisfy its hidden complexes and anger by acts of cowardice such as we have seen many times before: firing missiles at people, killing or wounding hundreds of people, demolishing houses and damaging property.

I should also give the people the good news that our movements and our offensive will, God willing, soon reach a stage that will stop the enemy from firing at us with long-range weapons and we will not allow the enemy to threaten our border towns with its long-range firing capabilities.

GROUND FORCES COMMANDER REACTS TO DEZFUL ATTACK

GF211840 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec 21, IRNA -- The blood of the (Islamic) combatants in the fronts is boiling from this vicious action (the missile attack on Dezful) by Saddam and everyone is prepared for a widespread and all out attack (against Iraq), said Ground Forces Commander Colonel Ali Sayyad-Shirazi in an interview published today.

The Persian daily ETTELA'AT quoted him as saying that the Islamic forces should advance to a point where they could stop the missile attacks and that point was up to Iraq's western borders, because of the missiles long distance range.

He said that Iraq would receive an answer for its attack on Dezful's residents soon, but we have to continue keeping our patience and tolerance in order to reach a logical plan.

Sayyad-Shirazi said that the Islamic forces fought for God, and in a war in the path of God, one's feelings should not be instigated by such incidents. However, he added their actions will emphasize on this point that until the enemy has not been completely brought down, we would not have security, he said.

He added that the situation in the fronts was good and that the Islamic forces were making efforts to prepare for a future operation which would be widespread and all out, insha'allah.

The Iraqi missile attack on Dezful Sunday martyred more than 62 civilians and injured 285 others, while causing extensive damage to hundreds of shops and homes.

MINIGROUP MEMBERS ARRESTED, EQUIPMENT IMPOUNDED

LD211914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Statement by the Central Staff Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps -- date not given]

[Text] Following successful mopping-up operations against the filth of outlaws in Kordestab carried out by the combatant heroes of the Hamzeh ash-Shohada base, may peace be upon him, operations were carried out with total success in cooperation with the Hamzeh base for the destruction of the Komoleh minigroup and that of the Union of Communist Fighters in Tehran, Tabriz, Ahvaz, Esfahan and in the northern parts of the country; this resulted in almost the overwhelming majority of the members of these two criminal minigroups being arrested outside Kordestab and all their supply lines and hiding places discovered and impounded, the details of which are as follows:

More than 50 safe houses were discovered. Two hundred and forty-six members and active organizational supporters of the two groups, including a member of the Central Committee and all cadres and members of the Komoleh central organization in Tehran were arrested. One of the arms caches of the Komoleh minigroup and two printing and publication centers of this pro-U.S. minigroup were discovered and impounded.

Six cover shops used as communications centers and for the printing and duplication of intergroup documents were discovered. Large numbers of transportation vehicles, including one 10-ton truck, several cars, one of which contained about 30 weapons, grenades and other ammunition were found, and several motorcycles were discovered and impounded. Also discovered were large quantities of equipment and facilities for forging documents, including false seals for identity cards, certificates, national service completion documents and passport, which the mercenary Komoleh minigroup used to allow capitalists and counterrevolutionaries to leave the country illegally, for which they received 100,000 tumans [1 million rials] for each person who exited.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition, including large numbers of Uzi machineguns, Kalashnikovs, G-3's, a number of Colts, large quantities of bullets, together with handgrenades, TNT, detonators, and large sums of cash were discovered. A number of printing and duplicating machines, including typewriters, stencils, photo stencils and photocopying machines were discovered and impounded.

Following these operations, the Komoleh's organizational links with the disgraceful and abortive Nozheh coup d'etat [during Bani-Sadr's rule] were discovered, and this together with the financial, weapons and medical assistance received by this minigroup from such countries as France and Iraq demonstrated the close links between Western imperialism and pseudoleftist minigroups which are plotting against Islam and the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in accordance with its Islamic tasks and duties, once again warns all the members of such counterrevolutionary minigroups that are waging war against God to break out of their organizational strongholds and open their eyes to reality, and thereby return to the embrace of Islam and the Islamic Republic.

OTHER OPERATIONS AGAINST 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

LD212200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] According to a report by the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada headquarters, in continuation of the efforts of the self-sacrificing combatants of the army of Islam, who are ready to sacrifice their lives, to cleanse the western regions of the country of the filth of armed outlaws and elements attached to counterrevolutioanry minigroups, on 19 December the defenders of the Islamic revolution dealt crushing blows to the counterrevolutionaries' organization.

During these victorious operations the combatants of Islam mopped up 24 villages on the Sanadaj-Kamyaran axis and (Kani Sheykh), Sang-e Siah and (Serajoddin) heights and killed 20 counterrevolutionaries. In these operations eight counterrevolutionaries were arrested by the combatants of Islam and two G-3 weapons, three Kalashnikovs, two Colts, one Brno, one Uzi and one wireless set were seized by the forces of Islam. Following the mopping up of these regions, the suffering and Muslim people of the liberated villages welcomed the combatants of Islam with honor.

HEADQUARTERS IMPLEMENTING IMAM'S DECREE MEETS

LD212310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that members of the central headquarters in charge of following up the binding decree issued by the imam of the ummah, Emami-Kashani, president of the administrative tribunal; Nateq-Nuri, minister of the interior; Mohaqeq-Damad, director of the State Inspectorate Organization; and Aqazadeh, minister of state in charge of executive affairs, held a session in the presence of the president of the Supreme Court and the prime minister and reviewed methods to implement all aspects of points raised in the imam's message. At this session, after discussing ways to implement the imam of the ummah's decree in the best possible way and as soon as possible, the following points were approved and stressed:

1. The appointment of a president, and the establishment and activation of a disciplinary court to investigate the cases of misconduct by Islamic revolution courts and offices of prosecutors which should be approved by the supreme judicial council.

2. A branch of the penal court was selected and assigned to investigate complaints and cases of misconduct reviewed by the headquarters in charge of following up the imam's decree.

3. The minister of interior was given responsibility for providing the security forces needed to submit and issue summons and implement verdicts passed by the said judicial courts as soon as possible.

4. A special commission was formed in the State Inspectorate Organization to speedily investigate the cases communicated to them by the headquarters.

5. At this session recruitment units and centers within governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions were discussed and subjected to exchanges of views; in studying their working procedures, decisions were made to improve their efficiency and the accuracy of their operations.

6. After investigating cases of misconduct and (?mistake) in addition to legal punitive sentences given to the culprit by judicial courts, the culprit or culprits will be introduced to the martyr-nurturing ummah regardless of their status.

CLANDESTINE RADIO ON MKO OPERATION IN RASHT

GF191754 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Two more cronies of the oppressive regime have been killed. The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] in a statement issued in Paris has reported the following: Two of the important and oppressive officials of Khomeyni have been killed in Rasht. On 15 December at 1510 a vehicle carrying three of the officials of the oppressive Khomeyni regime in Rasht was attacked by the resistance units and two of the occupants, Gholamhoseyn Zahmatkesh and 'Abdolhoseyn Haqshenas, were killed on the spot. The other occupant, Ahmad Qasemzadeh, was severely wounded.

Zahmatkesh was one of the influential mullahs and one of the major agents of Khomeyni for torture and suppression in Gilan Province. He and Haqshenas were active in planning and implementing suppression, execution, and torture in the city of Rasht. Qasemzadeh, who was wounded in the operation, is another one of the accomplices of these agents of the regime of suppression in Rasht.

AFGHAN MUSLIM 'REVOLUTIONARIES' ATTACK IN HERAT

LD212307 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Muslim Afghan revolutionaries attacked an armored column of the Afghan Government and Soviet occupation forces in (Dezbad) village in (Qal'egah) Governorate in Herat Province, killing 24. A landmine planted by the Muslim revolutionaries in the same region destroyed a military vehicle and its 12 occupants that were part of a military column of the occupation forces.

According to the reports we have received, the Soviet occupation forces, who have suffered continuous and great defeats at the hands of the Muslim fighters, are making use of military fighter planes in an attempt to attack the Muslim revolutionaries from the air. Their repeated bombardments have savagely martyred many innocent people in Afghanistan.

ORGANIZATION CONDEMNS ARRESTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

GF211830 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA -- The Arabian Peninsula Revolutionary Organisation in a statement released recently condemned Saudi Arabia's increased suppression of the Muslim people of that country.

The statement said the Saudi regime did not wince arresting any dedicated and aware revolutionary Muslim, especially the ulema.

The statement also revealed some of the arrested people's names.

Among the arrested people are the editor of the daily AL-YAUM, Salih al-Hazzaz, and several other reporters and journalists.

The judge of the Al-Jubayl, and six ulema from Al-Hufuf, Al-Ahsa, Al-'Awja, and Al-Qatif are now imprisoned.

Thirty-nine university professors, students, and 7 oil engineers of Aramco (Arabian American Oil Company) various office workers and theological students are among those arrested by the Saudi regime.

In conclusion, the Arabian Peninsula Revolutionary Organisation has stressed that its struggle will continue against the U.S.-backed Saudi Arabian regime until Islamic ideals are realised.